

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 L-02 EB-07 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0544

INFO NSF POLAR WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, AR

SUBJECT: FIELD GEOLOGIST

REF: BUENOS AIRES 1889 AND PREVIOUS

DEPT PASS NSF OFFICE OF INT. PROGRAMS

1. SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH SNMG DIRECTOR PADULA, IT WAS AGREED THAT LDGO GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA SHOULD BE PROPOSED TO GOA AS COLLABORATIVE PROGRAM. INTERVENTIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE HOPEFULLY WILL HAVE SOLVED BRUHAN'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WITH TERRITORIAL POLICE. AUTHORIZATION IS REQUESTED FOR FORMAL PROPOSAL OF COOPERATION FOR THIS WORK. NSF POLAR IS ASKED TO REITERATE TO LDGO THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IS A NECESSITY.

2. DR. IAN DALZIEL OF LAMONT DOHERTY GEOLOGICAL OBSERVATORY (LDGO) WAS IN BUENOS AIRES MARCH 24-26 DURING WHICH TIME S & T COUNSELOR AND DALZIEL HELD MEETINGS WITH (1) DR. ROBERTO CAMINOS (GEOLOGIST ASSOCIATED WITH NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL SERVICE - SNMG, AND U. OF BUENOS AIRES) AND (2) SNMG DIRECTOR VICENTE H. PADULA.

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3. UPSHOT OF THESE MEETINGS, NOT SURPRISINGLY, WAS THAT PADULA

NOT RPT NOT SATISFIED WITH PRIOR LDGO INFORMAL AND VERBAL AGREEMENT WITH HIS PREDECESSOR (THEN THE DIRECCION NACIONAL DE GEOLOGIA Y MINERIA) TO CONDUCT GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN ARGENTINE TERRITORY. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION, AND PADULA EXPRESSED INTEREST IN HAVING SNMG WORK WITH LDGO. HE NOTED THAT ARGENTINA NOW HAD A PATAGONIA DEVELOPMENT PLAN WHICH WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF AN OFFICE IN COMODORO RIVADAVIA, WHICH REPORTS TO THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR MINERALS (TO WHOM PADULA ALSO REPORTS IN THE ECONOMY MINISTRY). PADULA THOUGHT THAT THE LDGO PLANNED RESEARCH COULD FORM A PART OF THIS PLAN AND ELIMINATE THE NEED FOR DUPLICATION OF THESE EFFORTS BY ARGENTINA. PADULA MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT HE THOUGHT THIS SHOULD BE FORMALLY PROPOSED TO THE UNDERSECRETARY IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD SEEK THE COLLABORATION OF SNMG. PADULA THOUGHT THE UNDERSECRETARY WOULD SEEK THE VIEWS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY AS WELL. S&T COUNSELOR NOTED THAT (A) S&T COOPERATION BILATERAL PROVIDED OVERALL BASIS FOR COOPERATION OF THIS NATURE; (B) HERO CRUISE 75-2 HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THAT WE UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS HAD BEEN APPROVED (BA 2036).

4. MEANWHILE, DALZIEL LEARNED FROM BRUHAN THAT TERRITORIAL POLICE WANTED SITUATION STRAIGHTENED OUT BEFORE BRUHAN LEFT USHUAIA, ON HERO OR OTHERWISE. GIVEN IMMINENCE OF HERO DEPARTURE AND FOREIGN MINISTRY COGNIZANCE THEREOF, S&T COUNSELOR TOOK UP WHOLE MATTER INFORMALLY WITH PEREZ QUESADA OF NORTH AMERICAN DESK. PEREZ QUESADA WAS HELPFUL, CALLED NAVY (HERO CRUISE APPROVING AUTHORITY) AND PADULA AND THEN ADVISED US THAT TELEGRAM HAD BEEN SENT THRU NAVY CHANNELS TO TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOVERNOR URGING BRUHAN BE ALLOWED TO SAIL, NOTING S&T COOPERATION AGREEMENT, AND INDICATING FORMAL COOPERATION PROPOSAL BEING DEVELOPED. PEREZ QUESADA EXPECTS, QUITE REASONABLY, THAT WE WILL BACK THIS UP IN WRITING, E.G. BY A FORMAL LETTER TO THE MINERALS UNDERSECRETARY.

5. IN PARALLEL EFFORT, DALZIEL TALKED TO ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE DIRECTOR MARTINEZ ABAL, WHO AGREED TO CALL TIERRA DEL FUEGO GOVERNOR ON BRUHAN'S BEHALF.

6. EMBASSY HOPES THAT ONE OR BOTH OF ABOVE EFFORTS WILL HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DESIRED EFFECT OF PERMITTING BRUHAN TO SAIL ON HERO CRUISE AND ALLEVIATING SOME OF PRESENT CONCERN (WHICH WE VIEW AS QUITE LEGITIMATE) OF TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES.

7. IN ANY CASE, HOWEVER, WE NEED TO MOVE TOWARD A MORE FORMAL AGREEMENT IF LDGO IS TO CONTINUE THE NSF-SPONSORED RESEARCH WHICH IT WISHES TO CONDUCT IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA. IN THIS CONNECTION, DALZIEL LEFT A LETTER TO THE S&T COUNSELOR

OFFERING TO COLLABORATE WITH ARGENTINA IN THIS WORK AND ENCLOSING A COPY OF THE LDGO APRIL 1, 1974 PROPOSAL TO NSF POLAR FOR IT. WHILE THE PROPOSAL HAS SOME ASPECTS SUCH AS EXTENSIVE LDGO COOPERATION WITH THE CHILEAN NATIONAL OIL COMPANY AND WITH U.K. ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH LIKELY WILL BE UNPOPULAR WITH GOA, WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OVERALL GOA INTEREST IN GEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN EXTREME SOUTH OF COUNTRY WILL PREDOMINATE TO EXTENT THAT A SUITABLE ARRANGEMENT CAN BE DEVELOPED. ACCORDINGLY, EMBASSY PROPOSES TO OFFER LDGO-SNMG COOPERATION IN SUCH WORK, UNDER S&T BILATERAL, IN LETTER TO MINERALS UNDERSECRETARY (COPY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY) WITH DALZIEL LETTER AND LDGO PROPOSAL TO NSF AS ATTACHMENTS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPT AND NSF AUTHORIZATION SOONEST FOR ABOVE ACTION.

9. FOR NSF POLAR: ASSUMING BRUHAN EMERGES FROM HIS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN SATISFACTORY MANNER, REQUEST YOU REITERATE TO DALZIEL (AS WE DID HERE) THAT FUTURE WORK IN ARGENTINE TERRITORY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE UNDERTAKEN UNLESS IT HAS A SOUND BASIS OF AUTHORIZATION BY GOA.

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